

To: Gartner, Lois[Gartner.Loïs@epa.gov]
From: Friedland, Melissa
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 4:09:59 PM
Subject: Fw: ACTION: The Guardian RE: Tailing Dams/Mines/Superfund Involvement

hi

Lee Tyner had some questions about a draft response, Shahid talked with her, they agreed it was ok, i forwarded it to Latasha and Josh has looked at it. Shahid said to let you know....is that helpful? +

From: Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 11:20 AM
To: EOC Technical Specialist; Cohen, Nancy
Subject: Re: ACTION: The Guardian RE: Tailing Dams/Mines/Superfund Involvement

Thanks All!

From: Friedland, Melissa on behalf of EOC Technical Specialist
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 11:05 AM
To: Cohen, Nancy
Subject: Re: ACTION: The Guardian RE: Tailing Dams/Mines/Superfund Involvement

We checked with Lee and explained the answer and she is ok.

From: Cohen, Nancy
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 11:00 AM
To: EOC Public Information; EOC Technical Specialist
Subject: RE: ACTION: The Guardian RE: Tailing Dams/Mines/Superfund Involvement

Melissa: you're on this, right?

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

From: Thomas, Latosha **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 10:53 AM
To: Cohen, Nancy; EOC Technical Specialist
Subject: Fw: ACTION: The Guardian RE: Tailing Dams/Mines/Superfund Involvement

Hi,

Please see OGC's comments below in yellow. Thanks!

From: Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 10:49 AM
To: EOC OGC
Subject: Re: ACTION: The Guardian RE: Tailing Dams/Mines/Superfund Involvement

Ok thanks! I'll get a clearer response.

From: Tyner, Lee on behalf of EOC OGC
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 10:43 AM
To: EOC Public Information
Subject: Re: ACTION: The Guardian RE: Tailing Dams/Mines/Superfund Involvement

The first sentence is a bit vague about "sites that are placed on the NPL." The remedial process is long --- RI/FS, RD, RA, 5 year reviews, O&M, etc. Are we "routinely monitoring" the whole time? I'm fine with whatever the actual practice is. Second, the

original letter has more than this question. The reporter seems confused about Superfund sites. Removal sites are also under Superfund.

From: Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 10:11 AM
To: EOC OGC
Subject: Re: ACTION: The Guardian RE: Tailing Dams/Mines/Superfund Involvement

Here's the actual report. Thanks!

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/industrial/special/mining/techdocs/tailings.pdf>

From: Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 10:01 AM
To: EOC OGC
Subject: ACTION: The Guardian RE: Tailing Dams/Mines/Superfund Involvement

Hi,

We're fine with the below response for the Guardian re: general info about tailings dams/mines and Superfund involvement. I'm trying to locate the report that is mentioned below, so that we can include it. Please let me know if you have any comments. Thanks!

RESPONSE: EPA routinely monitors hardrock mine sites that are placed on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). However, EPA does not maintain records of the number of mines or tailings dams in the US. Tailings dam safety falls under the jurisdiction of State Dam Safety Agencies, and the Federal Land Management Agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service

and the Forest Service) that have jurisdiction for monitoring the dams on federal lands. EPA does investigate or respond to incidents that are brought to our attention. In August 1994, the EPA report entitled "Technical Report: Design and Evaluation of Tailings Dams" noted that "EPA estimates that there may be several thousand tailings impoundments associated with active non-coal mining, and tens of thousands of inactive or abandoned impoundments."

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 9:15 AM
To: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Cc: Lee, Monica; EOC Public Information; Press
Subject: EOC/JIC Action; The Guardian; Is this a response we can use re: questions about the abandoned mines in the US or in Utah or elsewhere?

Lisa, I don't have a prepared response on this and I'm sure this is fine to use for Q and A.

What matters to me is getting at least the OSWER part of this inquiry, the one dealing with abandoned mines across the US, to this reporter as soon as possible. The reporter has been waiting for a response for one week.

Obviously, it's great if JIC – presumably? - can respond to his questions on Animas River, but can we PLEASE get approval for the paragraph Nancy Cohen sent? Again, I forwarded this on Monday.

Thanks all, R.

From: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 5:57 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert
Cc: Lee, Monica
Subject: Is this a response we can use re: questions about the abandoned mines in the US or in Utah or elsewhere?

Or do you have a prepared response on it? We are getting some of these and it seems

someone in OSWER could address these more general questions or that we could send out a statement like this one. Perhaps for the Q&A doc as well?

Lisa McClain-Vanderpool

Public Affairs Specialist/Media Officer

Office of Communications and Public Involvement

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

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Denver, Colorado 80202

Office 303.312.6077

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From: Daguillard, Robert

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 5:48 AM

To: Cohen, Nancy; Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard

Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill

Thanks again, Nancy.

From: Cohen, Nancy

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 6:24 PM

To: Daguillard, Robert; Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard

Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill

Robert: here's our input . . .

EPA routinely monitors hardrock mine sites that are placed on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). However, EPA does not maintain records of the number of mines or tailings dams in the US. Tailings dam safety falls under the jurisdiction of State Dam Safety Agencies, and the Federal Land Management Agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Forest Service)

that have jurisdiction for monitoring the dams on federal lands. EPA does investigate or respond to incidents that are brought to our attention. In August 1994, the EPA report entitled "Technical Report: Design and Evaluation of Tailings Dams" noted that "EPA estimates that there may be several thousand tailings impoundments associated with active non-coal mining, and tens of thousands of inactive or abandoned impoundments."

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

From: Daguillard, Robert

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:31 AM

To: Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; Cohen, Nancy

Subject: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill

All, I've sent this inquiry to Region 8 already, but it looks as though OSWER might want to take a look at the first two questions. Please let me know.

If we could get a response by COB Today, the reporter could run the story in tomorrow's paper. Please advise. Thanks, R.

From: Karl Mathiesen

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 7:45 AM

To: Daguillard, Robert

Subject: Guardian media enquiry

Hi Robert,

I'm a journalist with the Guardian writing a piece on the release from the Gold King Mine in Colorado.

I have a few questions on the background of the situation. Please do your best to answer them all.

On the general state of tailings dams and mines. How many such storage facilities are there across the country? How does the EPA monitor the maintenance and condition of mines and dams that are holding contaminated water? Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored?

It has been reported that the EPA has been trying to designate the area as a superfund area for some time. When was the idea first floated? Why was it unsuccessful? Does the EPA believe the spill would have occurred regardless of the lack of superfund designation? Would that have changed the way the clean up was undertaken (ie would there have been more money available and therefore less likelihood of a failure?)?

Best,

Karl

Karl Mathiesen

London